COCHIN
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION OF 1114.

FIRST MEETING.

Monday, the $\frac{\textit{5th of December 1938.}}{\textit{20th of Vrischigam 1114.}}$

The Council met in the Council Hall, Ernakulam, at Eleven of the Clock with the Hon'ble the President (SIR SHANMUKHAM CHETTY, K. C. I. E.) in the Chair.

Messrs. T. K. Nayar, C. S. Sadasiva Ayyar, and Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan were absent.

Messrs. C. A. Kunjunni Raja, M. K. Raman, E. Ikkanda Warrier and H. J. Walmseley were sworn in.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

TOBACCO—CULTIVATION OF.

1. Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether tobacco cultivation will be successful in the State;

(*b*) if the answer to question (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to encourage tobacco cultivation by granting plots and loans for it?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): (*a*) Cannot say definitely.

(*b*) The question of encouraging tobacco cultivation is under the consideration of Government and a trial will be made shortly.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): Was this not tried in the Central Farm?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): Yes.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): What was the result?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): The result was not very satisfactory owing to the faulty cultivation and faulty method of cultivation. Therefore, we are anxious to give any fair trial to see that this is encouraged, and it will be undertaken this year.

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Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): When was the faulty nature of the cultivation realised?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): There was a certain period before the leaves should be cut off. Unfortunately the period became too late and the leaves became useless. There is also a difference in soil and being a new product they were not able to understand these things properly.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): May I know, Sir, whether any technical advice was taken with regard to the nature of the cultivation and the method to be adopted at the time when this experiment was tried?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): It was rather too late when we took the advice.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): Was the soil suitable for the cultivation of tobacco?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): We are experimenting to find out whether it is suitable and whether it is profitable. The result can only be announced after an exhaustive experiment in farming has been taken.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): Is not the land lying adjoining the Coimbatore district in the Chittur Taluk amenable to tobacco cultivation?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): Yes. We are making experiments and the hon'ble members may rest assured that we will make an honest attempt and the results reported very soon.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warrier (*Cheruthuruthi*): When was the first experiment made?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): I do not know the exact date. It was done before I took charge of this Office.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): Has the Government any objection to allow private parties to conduct experiments?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): That question involves a number of complications which have to be considered and we cannot give an answer for that.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon (*Chittur-Rural*): When was the cultivation tried?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): I want notice.

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